(b) whether there has also been an alarming increase in malignant malaria in various parts of the country; and

(c) whether Government contemplate any planned afforts to prevent these diseases from becoming epidemic

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir. While the total incidence of malaria has been contained between two or three million cases, there has been a decline in total P-falciparum cases from 613005 in 1996 to 469866 in 1997 for the corresponding periods.

(c) The Government have launched the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme and the Enhanced Malaria Control Project to effectively control the spread of these diseases.

Ineffectiveness of Vaccines Manufactured by Haffkine Institute

1001. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DPT vaccine manufactured by Haffkine Institute in India for whooping cough was found ineffective in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the polio vaccine as well as the anti-venom vaccine made by the Institute had also been found ineffective in the past in Sri Lanka;

(c) how Sri Lanka has reacted to the failure of the DPT vaccine; and

(d) whether this issue has been investigated and any steps taken to strengthen the safety testing of vaccines produced by the Haffkine institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) No official details from Sri Lankan Government about alleged ineffective DPT vaccine manufactured and supplied by M/s Haffkine Institute, Bombay to Sri Lanka have been received. However based upon a newspaper report about the alleged failure of DPT vaccine supplied by M/s Haffkine Institute, the matter was taken up with the High Commission of India at Sri Lanka. Investigations were also conducted at the manufacturers end and clarifications were sought from the Company. The investigation conducted by Directorate General of Health Service revealed that 7 batches of DPT vaccine manufactured by M/s Haffkine were supplied through STC to Sri Lanka in 1996-97. All the batches were released after proper testing. The protocols of manufacture and testing as well as samples of the batches, were also examined by Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli as per general requirement for all vaccine manufactured under EPI programme in the Country. These batches were released after necessary clearance from Central Drug Laboratory.

No complaint has been received about Polio vaccine and anti-venom serum manufactured by M/s Haffkine Pharma.

According to the information received from the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka a committee of enquiry of retired judges has been appointed by the Sri Lankan President to investigate the alleged defective quality of vaccine and observance of procedures in awarding the tender.

Disease Surveillance Programme

1002. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where the nation-wide disease surveillance programme and training of rapid response team for epidemic diseases have been started;

(b) whether the said programme has been extended to the North-eastern States;

(c) whether any request has been received from the Regional Institute of

Medical Sciences, Imphal for taking up this programme; and

(d) if so, whether it would be taken up this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Disease Surveillance Programme has been initiated in five pilot districts (Gurgaon in Haryana, Alwar in Rajasthan, Mehsana in Gujarat, Alappuzha in Kerala and Kolar in Karnataka) and training to Rapid Response Teams (State and Districts) has been imparted in September-October, 1997.

(b) It is proposed to extend the Programme to other districts of the country in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources.

(c) A request from Head of the Department of Microbiology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal has been received.

(d) The regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal is proposed to be included in the net-work of laboratories under the concept plan of the disease surveillance system in India.

Steps taken to bring back Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir

1003. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to bring back the Kashmiri Pandit migrants back to Kashmir Valley and the results thereof after the installation of popular Government; and

(b) the details of the steps Government are taking to mitigate the suffering of such migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) The State Government has informed that the matter of safe and honourable return of migrants to their native places in the Valley is of top-most priority for the State Government. The State Government is drawing out an action plan for the return of the migrants. State Government has constituted an apex level Committee under the Chairmanship of Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, and a sub-Committee headed by the Financial Commissioner (Planning & Development), to draw up an action plan for return of migrants to their homes in the Valley and to examine the problems of all categories of migrants. An Interim Action Plan was submitted by the Sub-Committee in July 1997 which has not yet been finalised by the State Government. In the meantime, the cash relief, ration and other facilities being provided to the needy migrants are being continued. A special package of Rs. 6.60 crores for improvement of facilities in camps in Jammu is under implementation by State Government.

Involvement of People in Anti-Terrorist Operations

1004. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb blasts that have taken place in the Kashmir Valley after the installation of popular Government and the extent of loss of life and property, alongwith its comparison in the year prior to installation of popular Government; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to involve the people in anti-terrorist operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OR PARLIAMENTARY AFFARS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) A comparative table indicating the number of bomb blasts etc., loss of life and